



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 25, 2023

**Select works of emerging and mid-career Indigenous artists from BC and the Yukon to be displayed at the Museum of Vancouver**

***Spirit Journeys, a new micro-exhibition at MOV featuring artwork by the 2021 YVR Art Foundation scholarship recipients***

VANCOUVER, BC – On January 26, 2023 a new micro-exhibition featuring emerging and mid-career Indigenous artists opens at the **Museum of Vancouver (MOV)**. The exhibition, titled **Spirit Journeys: Walking with Resilience, Wellbeing and Respect**, provides an opportunity for the **2021 YVR Art Foundation (YVRAF)** scholarship recipients to exhibit artwork they have created over the past year. This is the third year that MOV has hosted this collaborative exhibition.

“The YVR Art Foundation is dedicated to supporting and advancing BC and Yukon Indigenous art and artists through scholarship, grant, and travel awards. Exhibition opportunities are essential for this work and provide an important platform for artists to show their art, own their space in the local art scene, and be in conversation with new audiences. We are excited for Spirit Journeys and our continued partnership with the dedicated team at the Museum of Vancouver to provide the 2021 YVRAF scholarship recipients this valuable opportunity for reach, visibility, and representation in a public museum.” -Elisabeth Kyle, Executive Director, YVR Art Foundation.

Connection to territorial lands and waters, and the plant and animal beings inhabiting such spaces, is a common thread uniting many of the artworks in this exhibition. The pieces invoke a form of Indigenous memory and identity as written on the land, body, or spirit. Some explore contemporary life through the lens of protection and resilience – the ability to challenge, or overcome, the destructive processes inherent to the colonial experience in Canada. Others explore the ongoing relevance of ancestral teachings in daily life.

Several of the featured artworks remind us that plant and animal beings are our relatives, that they – and their gifts – must be treated with respect. It is our duty to care for them by stewarding shared lands and waterways where they also make their homes. Our lives are interwoven. Their wellbeing is also our wellbeing. By living this way, we ensure a legacy for future generations while honoring traditions passed down by our ancestors.

Other artworks ask us to consider ways that Indigenous identity can be expressed in an increasingly urban landscape. They ask us to reflect upon ways we can protect our spirits in such settings. Medicine wheels become softer, portable artworks, while fabric is transformed into symbols of resilience and memory. All these works thread together the importance of walking with well-being and respect.

“This exhibition is a celebration of 2021 Emerging and Mid-Career Artist Scholarship recipients. Through the YVR Art Foundation Scholarship Program these artists continued their studies or worked with mentors to expand their personal knowledge of Indigenous art and design. The results are breathtaking and inspiring. MOV is honored to showcase the work of these nine talented artists, and we raise our hands in respect and appreciation for those who have inspired and taught them.” -Sharon Fortney, Curator of Indigenous Collections and Engagement, Museum of Vancouver.

**Spirit Journeys** features the work of the 2021 YVR Art Foundation scholarship recipients including: Rebecca Baker-Grenier, Reggie Harrold, Harrison Martin, Sydney Pickering, Shaina Richelle Stephens, Naomi Watkins, Eliot White-Hill Kwulasultun, Tina Robinson, Angelo Kalum Cavagnaro. The YVRAF's scholarship program awards \$5,000 annually to BC and Yukon Indigenous emerging and mid-career visual artists to pursue their art practice through mentorships, education, or community focused art projects.

**About Museum of Vancouver**

The Museum of Vancouver connects Vancouverites to each other and connects Vancouver to the world. The museum's programs, exhibitions, and collections bring people together and inspire conversation about the future. The museum, an enthusiastic civic advocate, is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring a socially connected, civically engaged city.

**About YVR Art Foundation**

YVR Art Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that supports the development and advancement of BC and Yukon Indigenous art and artists by providing scholarships, travel grants, awards, and research and exhibition opportunities. For more information about the YVR Art Foundation visit [www.yvraf.com](http://www.yvraf.com).

**Institutional Partners:** City of Vancouver, BC Arts Council, The Canada Council for the Arts, and the Province of British Columbia

**Partners in Redress and Decolonization:** xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations

**Listing Information** Spirit Journeys: Walking with Resilience, Wellbeing and Respect  
**Public Opening Date:** January 26, 2023  
**Location:** Museum of Vancouver: 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC  
**Website:** [www.museumofvancouver.ca/spirit-journeys](http://www.museumofvancouver.ca/spirit-journeys)

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